

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

**DOCKETED**  
**11-AFC-4**

TN # 68555

NOV. 16 2012



**Notice of Public Workshop for the  
Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)**

The workshop will be held on:

**WEDNESDAY, November 28, 2012**

**Starting at 9:00 AM and ending no later than 5:00 PM**

**Palo Verde Community College  
One College Drive, Lounge (CS123/124)  
Blythe, CA 92225  
(wheelchair accessible, map attached)**

**To participate in the meeting by telephone:  
WebEx call-in toll-free number: 1-866-469-3239  
Webex meeting number: 925 445 196  
WebEx meeting password: meeting@9**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the workshop is to allow staff, the applicant, intervenors, interested agencies, and the public the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Rio Mesa SEG project. The primary subject area to be discussed is Cultural Resources, however, other topic areas or issues related to staff review of the proposed project may also be discussed. All interested parties, interested agencies, and members of the public are invited to participate. The tentative workshop agenda will be posted on the Energy Commission project website (<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html>) by November 26, 2012. Technical or schedule questions should be directed to Pierre Martinez, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-3765, or by e-mail at [pierre.martinez@energy.ca.gov](mailto:pierre.martinez@energy.ca.gov).

**Summary of the proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility Project**

As currently proposed, the Rio Mesa SEG project would comprise two solar fields and associated facilities encompassing a total of approximately 3,805 acres and would be located on the Palo Verde Mesa in Riverside County, California, approximately 13 miles southwest of the City of Blythe. If approved, the two power plants, solar fields, and associated facilities would be located on land leased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The project gen-tie line, emergency and construction electrical power supply line, and primary access road would be located on federal land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). If approved, each solar plant would generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW and would use heliostats – elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on pylons – to focus the sun's rays on a receiver steam generator located atop a 750-foot tall solar power tower near the center of each solar field. Each solar plant would utilize approximately 85,000 heliostats.

## **Purpose of the Preliminary Staff Assessment**

The PSA is not a decision document of the Energy Commission, nor does it contain findings of the Energy Commission related to environmental impacts or the project's compliance with local, state, and federal legal requirements. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's independent, objective preliminary evaluation of the proposed Rio Mesa SEGF project. The PSA examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of the proposed Rio Mesa SEGF project, based on the information provided by the applicant, government agencies, interested parties, intervenors, and other sources available at the time the PSA was prepared. PSA Part A, which was published on September 28, 2012, includes staff's environmental and engineering evaluation in the following areas: Air Quality, Hazardous Materials Management, Noise and Vibration, Public Health, Socioeconomics, Water Supply, Soil and Surface Water, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Visual Resources, Waste Management, Worker Safety and Fire Protection, Facility Design, Geology and Paleontology, Efficiency, Reliability, and Transmission System Engineering. PSA Part B, which was published on October 15, 2012, contains staff's analysis on Alternatives, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Land Use.

## **Status of Project Review**

To date staff has conducted two PSA workshops, one on October 29, 2012 in Sacramento, and a second on November 14, 2012 in Palm Desert. Based on the workshops and written comments received, staff may refine its analysis, correct errors, and finalize its approved conditions of certification. These revisions and changes will be presented in a Final Staff Assessment (FSA) that will be published and made available to the public and interested agencies. The FSA will act as staff's testimony and is only one piece of evidence that will be considered by the Committee (two Energy Commission Commissioners who have been assigned to this project) in reaching a decision on whether or not to recommend that the full five-member Energy Commission approve the proposed project.

## **Participation**

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lou Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at (916) 654-5146 or via email at [lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov). For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Pierre Martinez, at (916) 651-3765.

If you wish to provide written comments on the PSA, please submit comments to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number 11-AFC-04 for the Rio Mesa SEGF project in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. If you wish to submit comments electronically, please provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov). Please include your name or organization's name in the file name. If you are preparing non-electronic written comments, please mail or hand deliver them to:



California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 11-AFC-04  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of the proceeding. Additionally, comments may be posted on the project website.

If you are unable to attend the workshop, written comments may be sent per the instructions above. You can subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listserves>. By being on this e-mail list, you will receive all project related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the Preliminary Staff Assessment, staff reports, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html>.

News media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Communications Office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Date: 11/14/12



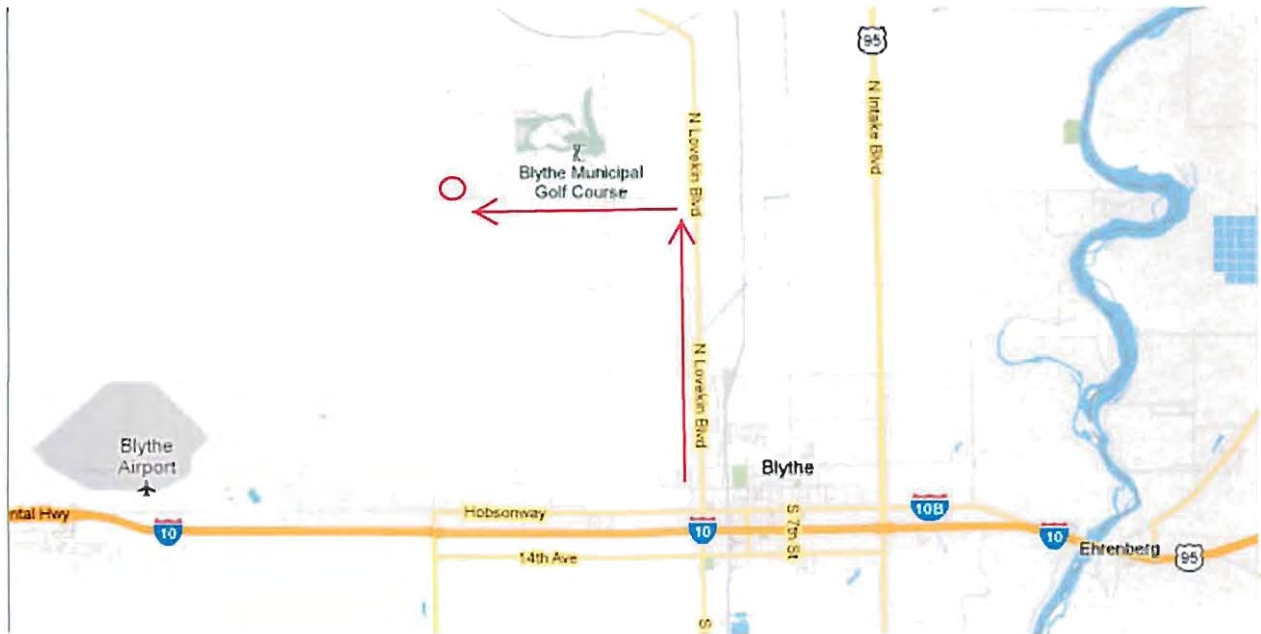
ROGER E. JOHNSON, Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission & Environmental  
Protection Division

cc: Docket (11-AFC-04)  
Proof of Service List  
General List No. 7411  
Property Owner List No. 7412  
Agency List No. 7413  
Library List No. 7414

**ENERGY COMMISSION PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)**

**WEDNESDAY, November 28, 2012  
Beginning at 9:00 AM**

**Palo Verde Community College  
One College Drive, Lounge (CS123/124)  
Blythe, CA 92225  
(wheelchair accessible, map attached)**



**Directions:**

From Interstate 10, proceed north on N. Lovekin Boulevard (approximately 3.75 miles)  
Take a left on 6th Avenue (approximately 2.5 miles)  
Palo Verde Community College will be on your right

**PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
**November 28, 2012**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION PUBLIC WORKSHOP**  
**Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)**

**THROUGH WEBEX:**

**1. TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):**

- Call **1-866-469-3239** and when prompted enter **925 445 196**

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at **1-866-229-3239**. To see if your computer is compatible, visit <http://support.webex.com/support/systemrequirements>. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**

WebEx Access code: **925 445 196**

WebEx Meeting Password (case sensitive): **meeting@9**

**2. COMPUTER LOG-ON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:**

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter **925 445 196**
- When prompted, enter your information and **meeting@9** (case sensitive)
- After you login, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide **your** phone number.
- In the **Number box**, type your area code and phone number and click **OK**.  
**You will receive a call back on your phone for the audio portion of the meeting.**

**3. COMPUTER LOG-ON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER, ETC:**

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter **925 445 196** and **meeting@9** (case sensitive)
- After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. Click **CANCEL**.
- Instead call **1-866-469-3239**. When prompted, enter **925 445 196** and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your computer screen after you login.



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE  
RIO MESA SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING FACILITY**

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-04  
PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 11/2/12)

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Public Adviser's Office  
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### DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Diane L. Scott, declare that on November 16, 2012, I served and filed a copy of the attached **Notice of Public Workshop for the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)**, dated November 16, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html>.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

**(Check all that Apply)**

**For service to all other parties:**

- X   Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses marked **"hard copy required"** or where no e-mail address is provided.

**AND**

**For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:**

- X   by sending electronic copies to the e-mail address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT**  
Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-04  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
[docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov)

**OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:**

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission  
Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel  
1516 Ninth Street MS-14  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[michael.levy@energy.ca.gov](mailto:michael.levy@energy.ca.gov)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

*Diane L. Scott*

Diane L. Scott  
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protections Division